E-Books Script

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I took a different approach. The Spanish department at Manhattan High School has adopted Avancemos and students can have download and access the book. However, most of the students are having a hard time adjusting to the change. This is the point of view of a teacher and two students. The teacher’s point of view is mine. I did not use real names.

Good Afternoon, thank you for joining us on another edition of ¡Qué pasa en la escuela! As all of you know, the Spanish department in our school has adopted a new book ¡Avancemos! Teachers and students have to get used to not only to use new books but also students will have access to this book online. Today we will talk with Mrs. Alcantara Spanish Teacher and two Spanish students Josiah and Emily. They will let us know how they are liking the changes in the Spanish department.

Interviewer: Good afternoon, Mrs. Alcantara, Josiah and Emily. Thank you so much for joining us this afternoon.

Mrs. Alcantara, Josiah and Emily: Thank you for inviting us.

Interviewer: Mrs. Alcantara, why did the Spanish department decide to change books?

Mrs. Alcantara: All of the Spanish teachers agreed that we needed to make few changes in our department in order to teach Spanish effectively. As you know, the Spanish program nationwide has changed tremendously and we needed also to find books with authentic Spanish materials.

Interviewer: How do you and the other teachers like the use of the online book?

Mrs. Alcantara: Personally, I am enjoying having online access to the book and all the teaching materials. We received training from the publisher company two months ago. We were very excited with all of the students’ features. Students not only have access to the book but also to flashcards to review vocabulary words, videos, grammar exercises, audio availability to listen to the words and practice the right pronunciation. They even have the opportunity to write articles in Spanish and publish it on the site and connect with other students around the world. I feel that having access to online books open up a new way of learning a second language.

Interviewer: Do you use the online book?

Mrs. Alcantara: Yes. It has been great to have access to the book at any time. I use it during class as well. I play the videos and the audio in class. I project the book during class. It is great that I can use the book and use its features in class.

Interviewer: It is difficult to make changes. And the Spanish department has not only adopted a new book but they are not issuing books to the students anymore. Students received a login and password to have access to the book online. Please, would you share with us how are the students getting used to online books?

Mrs. Alcantara: It has been a huge change and we (teachers) are getting used to all the changes we made this year. The first week of class, students were waiting to receive a book. They received a login and password to access the book online. A group of students were not happy with the change. I took 25 minutes of class to show the students how to login. In addition, I showed them all the features of the site and they started to get excited to have access to the book at any time without carrying a heavy book.

Interviewer: What are some of the challenges the students are facing with the online books?

Mrs. Alcantara: Online books have many positive aspects. Unfortunately, a small group of our students do not have online access at home. In addition, many of our students have had many problems accessing the books online. It has been very frustrating for the students and also for us. Our head department has called the company and they are looking to solve some of the problems. For our students who do not have online access, we have issued books. We are still getting used to all the changes and we are supporting our students 100 percent.

Interviewer: Thank you, Mrs. Alcantara. Emily, you are taking Spanish 3 this year, how do you like to have access to the book at any time without carrying the book everywhere?

Emily: I like the book online. I do not have to carry one more book in my backpack. I like to watch the videos and listening to the audios available in the book. I think they are helping me to understand Spanish a bit more. Also, the flashcards are very useful. I will try to access the other features of the book soon. It has been a big change but I like the online book.

Interviewer: Thank you Emily. Josiah, are you excited with the online book?

Josiah: I do not like it at all. You know, I am an athlete and I play games every week. I have to do my homework in the bus. Unfortunately, it is hard to carry my laptop and some of the features of the book need online connection. You cannot get online connection in other schools or the bus. For me, it is easier to have a book and study. It does not matter if it is heavy. I just like books. I like to be able to touch it. The books that I have downloaded on my I-pad do not seem real. I don’t know I just like the smell of books.

Interviewer: It seems that not all of the students like the idea of downloading the books in their Ipads or tablets. It is a new issue in our school. There is no doubt that our school is moving forward with the use of e-books. Mrs. Alcantara, Emily and Josiah, thank you so much for your thoughts in this issue. The administrators and teachers are aware of some of the challenges of the use of e-books and they are working together to come up with solutions to help the students during this transition time. Please join us tomorrow on another edition of ¡Qué pasa en la escuela! Thank you for joining us, have a nice afternoon. ¡Nos vemos!